

**Individual Behavioral Processes Branch
Psychological Development and Integrative Science Section
Project Officer: Jeffrey Elias**

Date Run: 02/07/04

PUBLIC ABSTRACTS

Grant: 1F31AG022291-01
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MCPHERSON-SALANDY, RENEE D MA
Title: Self-Disclosure and their Psychophysiological Correlates
Institution: LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY BROOKLYN BROOKVILLE, NY
CAMPUS
Project Period: 2003/09/02-2004/09/01

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Pennebaker (1995, 1990) has discussed the importance of emotional disclosure in maintaining good physical health. Research with European-American samples has generally supported the model. However, there is a dearth of research examining the applicability of this model of emotional expression and its effects on health within minority populations. In addition, there are extremely limited data on the psychophysiological response of African-Americans under conditions of emotional stress. What limited literature exists suggests a pattern that appears to be at variance with the data on European-Americans. As well, there are also very limited data on how developmental changes related to age affect the somatic-physiological response patterns to emotional stimuli. Such data would help determine whether we can generalize current assessment and treatment practices developed with younger adults to older adults. The following study was designed to address these deficiencies in the literature. Objective: To examine interracial differences in emotional expression and psychophysiological responsiveness developmentally as a function of age. Methodology: The participants of this study are to be 120 community-dwelling adults, with 40 participants in each of three age groups: 18-35, 36-56, and 57+, balanced for gender. Approximately half of the sample will be African-American and half will be European-American.

Grant: 5F32AG020886-02
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: PETERS, CYNTHIA J PHD
Title: Cognition, Social Relationships, and Poor Health
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHICAGO, IL
Project Period: 2002/04/09-

This F32 training proposal seeks support for a three-year program of research and training to be carried out at the University of Chicago and NORC under the guidance of Dr. Linda Waite. This research seeks to assess the role of physical health in the development of mild cognitive impairment and dementia. A second goal is to advance our understanding of the disability that results from dementia by examining social and psychosocial factors that reduce the likelihood of cognitive decline. Its specific aims are (1) To examine the extent to which behavioral factors (alcohol consumption, obesity, physical activity) and health conditions act as predictors for cognitive impairment in older adults using longitudinal, population-based data, (2) To develop a broad definition of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) usable in non-clinical settings, and (3) To examine the extent to which incidence, and changes in, cognitive functioning are associated with psychological factors (depression, hopelessness) and social factors (social network participation or integration, social support). This work will expand the field of demography of aging in several ways, by: (1) examining factors that might alter the life course at the onset of cognitive decline; (b) developing new methods to identify cognitive decline in older adults earlier than in clinical settings; and (c) extending social support theory by applying it to diseases of senescence care. Analysis of data will come from two sources: the population-based Health and Retirement Study (HIRS) and microfindings from interviews with a small, non-random sample of individuals who experience dementia-associated disability.

Grant: 5K01AG001051-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: LEVY, BECCA R PHD
Title: THE INFLUENCE OF AGING SELF-STEREOTYPES ON HEALTH
Institution: YALE UNIVERSITY NEW HAVEN, CT
Project Period: 2001/09/01-2006/08/31

DESCRIPTION (from application): This is a request for a MRSDA in Aging (MRSDAA) (K01). The overall aim of the application is to provide the candidate, Becca Levy, Ph.D., with a supervised research and educational experience that will enable her to become an independent investigator focusing on how psychosocial factors influence the long-term health of the elderly. Dr. Levy, an experimental social psychologist, became a faculty member at YU in 1999. A K01 Award, along with the supportive research environment at Yale, would provide Dr. Levy with the scientific tools for successful career development. The aims of the career development plan include developing a proficiency in: (1) psychosocial epidemiology of aging; (2) advanced statistics appropriate for analyzing longitudinal data sets; (3) research on disability in old age; and (4) issues involved in conducting and managing a longitudinal study. The overall objective of the two proposed studies is to determine whether aging self-stereotypes, beliefs about old people held by the elderly, influence patterns of functioning and survival. In Study 1, it is predicted that more positive aging self-stereotypes, as measured by the Attitude toward Aging subscale of the Philadelphia Geriatric Morale Scale (Lawton, 1975), will lead to lower rates of disability and mortality and higher rates of recovery among those that become disabled. This project will use the Ohio Longitudinal Study of Aging and Adaptation that includes six waves of data more than 21 years on 1106 participants, who were 50 years or older at baseline. In Study 2, it is predicted that more positive aging self-stereotypes, as measured at baseline by an open-ended question designed by the candidate, will protect individuals from experiencing an onset of dependence in activities of daily living (ADL) and will help those individuals, who develop ADL dependence to recover. Study 2 will draw on the Precipitating Events Project, an ongoing longitudinal study of 754 persons, 70 years or older, living in New Haven. This study will include three years of monthly telephone interviews about functioning. Together, these studies offer an excellent training opportunity and the possibility of identifying a new risk factor for disability and mortality that could be targeted by a psychosocial intervention.

Grant: 5P01AG018911-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: CACIOPPO, JOHN T PHD
Title: Social Isolation, Loneliness, Health & the Aging Process
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHICAGO, IL
Project Period: 2001/09/30-2006/08/31

DESCRIPTION (from the application): The purpose of the proposed Program Project Grant is to bring together sociological, psychological, and biological levels of analyses to bear on the relationships among and mechanisms underlying social isolation, feelings of loneliness, health, and the aging process. Social relationships are fundamental to emotional fulfillment, behavioral adjustment, and cognitive function. Recent research has shown that emotional closeness in relationships increases with age. Yet the number of social relationships decreases and social events triggering loneliness continue in the older adult. Moreover, they are physically aging and tend to be less resilient so these psychosocial challenges could potentially leave them vulnerable to feelings of loneliness, dysphoria, elevated and prolonged neuroendocrine stress responses, and ill health. Loneliness predicts morbidity and mortality from broad based causes in later life even after controlling for health behaviors and biological risk factors. Understanding the antecedents of feelings of loneliness and their consequences for mental and physical health can thus be studied effectively in older adults and is particularly important because life expectancy has increased in the U.S., increasing dramatically the number of older adults. Project 1 uses a longitudinal design in older adults to examine the temporal stability of loneliness, the predictors of the experience of loneliness, and the physiological (e.g., autonomic) and behavioral (e.g., health behaviors, sleep) effects associated with loneliness. Project 2 uses national survey data and linked Medicare claims data to examine the origins and consequences of loneliness and stress in the social environment. Project 3 is an animal model of vulnerability to social isolation and disruption as an individual trait, identifying the specific hormonal and immunological sequelae that increase risk for infectious and malignant disease during aging. There are also two cores that provide broad support to the projects: Core A the administrative Core, and Core B the data management and statistical management core.

Grant: 3P01AG018911-03S1
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: CACIOPPO, JOHN T. PHD
Title: Social Isolation, Loneliness, Health & the Aging Process
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHICAGO, IL
Project Period: 2001/09/30-2006/08/31

DESCRIPTION (from the application): The purpose of the proposed Program Project Grant is to bring together sociological, psychological, and biological levels of analyses to bear on the relationships among and mechanisms underlying social isolation, feelings of loneliness, health, and the aging process. Social relationships are fundamental to emotional fulfillment, behavioral adjustment, and cognitive function. Recent research has shown that emotional closeness in relationships increases with age. Yet the number of social relationships decreases and social events triggering loneliness continue in the older adult. Moreover, they are physically aging and tend to be less resilient so these psychosocial challenges could potentially leave them vulnerable to feelings of loneliness, dysphoria, elevated and prolonged neuroendocrine stress responses, and ill health. Loneliness predicts morbidity and mortality from broad based causes in later life even after controlling for health behaviors and biological risk factors. Understanding the antecedents of feelings of loneliness and their consequences for mental and physical health can thus be studied effectively in older adults and is particularly important because life expectancy has increased in the U.S., increasing dramatically the number of older adults. Project 1 uses a longitudinal design in older adults to examine the temporal stability of loneliness, the predictors of the experience of loneliness, and the physiological (e.g., autonomic) and behavioral (e.g., health behaviors, sleep) effects associated with loneliness. Project 2 uses national survey data and linked Medicare claims data to examine the origins and consequences of loneliness and stress in the social environment. Project 3 is an animal model of vulnerability to social isolation and disruption as an individual trait, identifying the specific hormonal and immunological sequelae that increase risk for infectious and malignant disease during aging. There are also two cores that provide broad support to the projects: Core A the administrative Core, and Core B the data management and statistical management core.

Grant: 5P01AG020166-02
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: RYFF, CAROL D PHD
Title: Integrative Pathways to Health and Illness
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON MADISON, WI
Project Period: 2002/09/30-2008/07/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of this program project grant is to carry forward MIDUS, a national survey (N= 7,189), conducted in 1994/95 by the MacArthur Midlife Research Network. The sample included adults aged 25 to 74, as well as twins and siblings. Conceived by a multidisciplinary team, the study investigated the role of behavioral, psychological, and social factors in accounting for age-related variations in health and illness. MIDUS II will add a second wave to the study, approximately 9-10 years later. In addition, it will include a sample of African Americans in Milwaukee, WI (N= 400). Project 1 data collection will include a repeat assessment of the original MIDUS telephone interview and self-administered questionnaire. These instruments will be augmented to include new assessments of cognitive functioning, optimism and coping, stressful events, and caregiving. Built around the Project 1 data collection are five projects, each adding significant strengths to the overall agenda. Project 2 will use diary techniques to assess daily stressors in a subsample of MIDUS respondents (including twins) and their effects on health and well being. Project 3 will focus on cognitive functioning and its connection to other psychological factors, as well as health outcomes and will include in-depth laboratory analyses with a Boston over-sample. Project 4 will collect biological data on a subsample of MIDUS respondents located in three geographic regions, with a focus on multiple indicators of physiological wear and tear that will be linked with multi-domain psychosocial experience. The biological data collection will include laboratory challenge studies (both cognitive and orthostatic), with accompanying assessments of salivary cortisol, blood pressure and heart-rate variability. Project 5 will focus on the central circuitry of emotion (affective neuroscience) and will include EEG measures of cerebral activation asymmetry and emotion-modulated startle. These measures have been previously linked to dispositional affect, depression, recovery from stressful events, and selected biomarkers. MIDUS affords the opportunity to investigate such relationships in a sociodemographically diverse sample with wide age ranges and comprehensive biomarkers. Five scientific cores surround these projects (Coordination, Psychosocial Measures, Biological Measures, Statistics, and Pilot Studies). Collectively, the scientific agenda represents a multi-level, multidisciplinary approach to understanding life course pathways to health and illness. The team of investigators has an outstanding record of past success working together to advance the frontiers of integrative science. All projects and cores include detailed responses to feedback received in the prior round of reviews.

Grant: 3P01AG020166-02S1
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: RYFF, CAROL D. PHD
Title: Integrative Pathways to Health and Illness
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON MADISON, WI
Project Period: 2002/09/30-2008/07/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of this program project grant is to carry forward MIDUS, a national survey (N= 7,189), conducted in 1994/95 by the MacArthur Midlife Research Network. The sample included adults aged 25 to 74, as well as twins and siblings. Conceived by a multidisciplinary team, the study investigated the role of behavioral, psychological, and social factors in accounting for age-related variations in health and illness. MIDUS II will add a second wave to the study, approximately 9-10 years later. In addition, it will include a sample of African Americans in Milwaukee, WI (N= 400). Project 1 data collection will include a repeat assessment of the original MIDUS telephone interview and self-administered questionnaire. These instruments will be augmented to include new assessments of cognitive functioning, optimism and coping, stressful events, and caregiving. Built around the Project 1 data collection are five projects, each adding significant strengths to the overall agenda. Project 2 will use diary techniques to assess daily stressors in a subsample of MIDUS respondents (including twins) and their effects on health and well being. Project 3 will focus on cognitive functioning and its connection to other psychological factors, as well as health outcomes and will include in-depth laboratory analyses with a Boston over-sample. Project 4 will collect biological data on a subsample of MIDUS respondents located in three geographic regions, with a focus on multiple indicators of physiological wear and tear that will be linked with multi-domain psychosocial experience. The biological data collection will include laboratory challenge studies (both cognitive and orthostatic), with accompanying assessments of salivary cortisol, blood pressure and heart-rate variability. Project 5 will focus on the central circuitry of emotion (affective neuroscience) and will include EEG measures of cerebral activation asymmetry and emotion-modulated startle. These measures have been previously linked to dispositional affect, depression, recovery from stressful events, and selected biomarkers. MIDUS affords the opportunity to investigate such relationships in a sociodemographically diverse sample with wide age ranges and comprehensive biomarkers. Five scientific cores surround these projects (Coordination, Psychosocial Measures, Biological Measures, Statistics, and Pilot Studies). Collectively, the scientific agenda represents a multi-level, multidisciplinary approach to understanding life course pathways to health and illness. The team of investigators has an outstanding record of past success working together to advance the frontiers of integrative science. All projects and cores include detailed responses to feedback received in the prior round of reviews.

Grant: 3P01AG020166-02S2
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: RYFF, CAROL D. PHD
Title: Integrative Pathways to Health and Illness
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON MADISON, WI
Project Period: 2002/09/30-2008/07/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of this program project grant is to carry forward MIDUS, a national survey (N= 7,189), conducted in 1994/95 by the MacArthur Midlife Research Network. The sample included adults aged 25 to 74, as well as twins and siblings. Conceived by a multidisciplinary team, the study investigated the role of behavioral, psychological, and social factors in accounting for age-related variations in health and illness. MIDUS II will add a second wave to the study, approximately 9-10 years later. In addition, it will include a sample of African Americans in Milwaukee, WI (N= 400). Project 1 data collection will include a repeat assessment of the original MIDUS telephone interview and self-administered questionnaire. These instruments will be augmented to include new assessments of cognitive functioning, optimism and coping, stressful events, and caregiving. Built around the Project 1 data collection are five projects, each adding significant strengths to the overall agenda. Project 2 will use diary techniques to assess daily stressors in a subsample of MIDUS respondents (including twins) and their effects on health and well being. Project 3 will focus on cognitive functioning and its connection to other psychological factors, as well as health outcomes and will include in-depth laboratory analyses with a Boston over-sample. Project 4 will collect biological data on a subsample of MIDUS respondents located in three geographic regions, with a focus on multiple indicators of physiological wear and tear that will be linked with multi-domain psychosocial experience. The biological data collection will include laboratory challenge studies (both cognitive and orthostatic), with accompanying assessments of salivary cortisol, blood pressure and heart-rate variability. Project 5 will focus on the central circuitry of emotion (affective neuroscience) and will include EEG measures of cerebral activation asymmetry and emotion-modulated startle. These measures have been previously linked to dispositional affect, depression, recovery from stressful events, and selected biomarkers. MIDUS affords the opportunity to investigate such relationships in a sociodemographically diverse sample with wide age ranges and comprehensive biomarkers. Five scientific cores surround these projects (Coordination, Psychosocial Measures, Biological Measures, Statistics, and Pilot Studies). Collectively, the scientific agenda represents a multi-level, multidisciplinary approach to understanding life course pathways to health and illness. The team of investigators has an outstanding record of past success working together to advance the frontiers of integrative science. All projects and cores include detailed responses to feedback received in the prior round of reviews.

Grant: 5R01AG007607-09
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: BLANCHARD-FIELDS, FREDDA H. MA
Title: ATTRIBUTIONAL PROCESSES IN ADULTHOOD & AGING
Institution: GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ATLANTA, GA
Project Period: 1990/04/01-2006/12/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by investigator): Evidence suggests that older adults rely heavily on easily accessible trait-based information. However, findings to date do not indicate universal increases in social judgment biases for older adults. Plausible mechanisms for explaining attributional biases are not limited to processing capacity, but include motivational goals and cognitive style, and accessibility of beliefs and values. For example, when beliefs or rules are violated, adults of any age tend to be biased toward dispositional attributions. These effects may be heightened in older adults. However, at this point there is no definitive evidence that these variables account for such age differences. The aim of this research is to address this issue by further examining attributional biases in two contexts, the causal attribution framework and the attitude attribution paradigm. The first series of studies aims 1) to establish age differences social judgment biases in a new context assessing the correspondence bias and 2) to examine the joint influence of plausible mechanisms accounting for these age differences: general and content-specific values and beliefs, need for closure, and processing load. The next series of studies aims to further refine the previously used schematicity measure utilizing a priming method and systematically evaluating schema valence. In this way, the joint effects of social schematicity, character identification, and experientially based modes of processing on age differences in dispositional biases can be examined. This will culminate in a replication and extension of our original model of individual differences dispositional biases with more refined assessment procedures, better measures of values and beliefs, and by utilizing two assessment paradigms for assessing attributional biases. In the long run, this research will help us understand how attitudes, values, and beliefs influence one's social reasoning process. Understanding such individual differences will help to differentiate adaptive from dysfunctional cognitions in dealing with everyday problem situations, in general, and relationship situations, in particular. Furthermore, age/cohort differences in social schemas and beliefs and their relationship to causal reasoning has implications for understanding the nature of dysfunctional attributions and counseling couples of different age/cohort groups

Grant: 5R01AG017842-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: BREWER, MARILYNN B PHD
Title: AGING, INHIBITION, AND STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE
Institution: OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLUMBUS, OH
Project Period: 2001/02/01-2005/01/31

DESCRIPTION (adapted from investigator's abstract): The goal of this application is to test the hypothesis that elderly people rely on stereotypes more and are more prejudiced than young people because of age-related reductions in the ability to inhibit information. A preliminary experiment revealed that elderly people relied on stereotypes even when instructed not to, whereas young people did not. Elderly people were also more prejudiced than young people, and these differences in stereotyping and prejudice were mediated by age differences in inhibitory ability. Because elderly people reported a stronger desire than young people to control their prejudiced reactions, these results suggest that reductions in inhibitory ability can cause people to become prejudiced against their will. In order to further examine this hypothesis, seven experiments are proposed. These experiments rely on a variety of different measures and manipulations to extend the findings of the preliminary experiment. Experiments are proposed that examine differences in inhibitory ability and stereotyping and prejudice among the elderly based on whether they live independently or in an assisted-living environment; whether they are on-cycle or off-cycle in their circadian rhythms; and whether the measures of stereotyping and prejudice are implicit or explicit. The goal of these experiments is to examine factors that influence inhibitory ability and stereotyping and prejudice among the elderly. Follow-up measures and studies are discussed that examine whether unintended stereotyping and prejudice among the elderly lead to feelings of guilt, loss of self-control, and negative mood states, which in turn are often associated with negative mental and physical health outcomes.

Grant: 5R01AG008816-13
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: CARSTENSEN, LAURA L MA
Title: SOCIOEMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING IN ADULTHOOD AND OLD AGE
Institution: STANFORD UNIVERSITY STANFORD, CA
Project Period: 1990/09/01-2004/12/31

The aim of this competing renewal application is to continue a programmatic line of research undertaken in 1990 that seeks to understand age differences in social motivation in adulthood and old age. The behavioral phenomenon that originally prompted this investigation was the reliable age-related reduction in social contact and social interaction in old age. At that time, "concern" best described the societal and research response to the phenomenon. General consensus in the field was that observed reductions in social contact were associated with deleterious consequences for physical and mental health. Senior centers were established in virtually every American city, intervention efforts aimed at drawing out older people were undertaken, and studies aimed at documenting the nature of emotional distress in old age were in full force. Over the past ten years, however, findings from this laboratory have contributed to a small but growing literature that shows clearly that older people are not suffering emotionally from a reduction in social contact. On the contrary, emotional functioning is at least well maintained in old age, and possibly improves. Compared to their younger counterparts, older people pay greater attention to emotion in everyday life, prefer emotionally close social partners and, by self-report, regulate their emotions better. Yet, beyond these provocative findings, we know less about emotion in old age than any other time in life. Five studies of emotion are proposed. Three examine potentially complementary cognitive and biological mechanisms that may play a role in improved emotion functioning. A fourth study involves a third wave of data collection in a longitudinal sequence design based on an experience sampling of emotions in everyday life. The fifth study proposes to extend investigation of emotional preferences from social relations to consumer behavior by examining relative preferences for advertisements that are couched in emotional versus non-emotional terms. Emotion is at the core of goal directed behavior and if society is to harness the potential of the aging population, and to intervene where necessary with effective interventions, understanding what motivates older people is clearly prerequisite.

Grant: 5R01AG021147-02
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: DIEHL, MANFRED K PHD
Title: Self-Concept Organization Across the Adult Life Span
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GAINESVILLE, FL
Project Period: 2002/09/15-2006/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Two studies are proposed to investigate age differences in self-concept organization across the adult life span, and the extent to which different self-concept organizations are related to affect regulation. These goals are addressed by studying (a) a sample of healthy adults, and (b) a sample of adults who are treated for cancer. The specific aims are: (1) To examine age differences in self-concept organization across the adult life span: Although research with younger age groups has documented the stress-moderating effects of self-complexity (SC) and self-concept differentiation (SCD), knowledge about the adaptive value of these self-concept organizations in adulthood and their relationship with age is limited. Based on findings from earlier work, it is hypothesized that SC will be highest in middle age and lower in young and older adults. Conversely, SCD is hypothesized to be lowest in middle age and higher in young and older adults. (2) To examine the self-regulatory effects of self-representations by modeling daily variation in affect as a function of self-concept organization and daily stress: Self-related knowledge is important for interpersonal functioning and for the regulation of one's own behavior. Building on the existing work in this area, a daily diary study is proposed to examine the self-regulatory functions of self-representations over a 30-day period. Specifically, intra- and inter-individual variability in affect will be modeled as a function of daily stress and SC and SCD. It is hypothesized that SC and SCD will moderate the effects of daily stress on intra- and inter-individual variability in daily affect. (3) To examine the self-regulatory effects of self-representations on affect regulation in adult cancer patients: Being treated for cancer challenges a person's self-concept, self-regulation, and PWB in profound ways. A daily diary study is proposed drawing on 60 men (age 45+) with prostate cancer and 60 women (age 45+) with breast cancer. It is expected that the effect of SC and SCD on affect variability will be significantly stronger in cancer patients than in their healthy counterparts. It is also hypothesized that the moderating effects of SC and SCD on affect variability are significantly ($p < .05$) greater in the cancer sample than in the healthy sample. The results of these studies will advance the field by providing a more accurate understanding of the role of self-concept organization in affect regulation in healthy and ill adults. This application is submitted under the new investigator provision

Grant: 5R01AG017916-04
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: FINGERMAN, KAREN L. PHD
Title: PROBLEMS BETWEEN PARENTS AND OFFSPRING IN ADULTHOOD
Institution: PURDUE UNIVERSITY WEST LAFAYETTE WEST LAFAYETTE, IN
Project Period: 2001/09/30-2004/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): In an era of increasing mobility and high divorce rates, the parent/offspring tie has become one of the longest lasting and most important relationships in adults' lives. Although we know a great deal about positive qualities of this tie, we know surprisingly little about difficulties between parents and offspring after offspring enter young adulthood and before parents incur physical declines at the end of life. The proposed study looks at how parents and adult offspring perceive and handle problems in their relationships. We explore the ways in which age, gender, and relationship status (parent vs. offspring) are associated with differences in negative features of parent/adult offspring ties. Specifically, this study advances the field by looking at the psychosocial correlates underlying these marker variables. Participants will be 150 triads of offspring ages 24 to 44, their mothers, and their fathers ($n = 450$), residing within 50 miles of one another. Individual interviews will be conducted with each party, and offspring will participate in dyadic interviews with their mothers and fathers separately. Open-ended and forced-choice questions will provide information about parents' and offspring's perceptions of difficulties in their relationship and how they react to these difficulties. Dyadic interviews conducted between offspring and their mothers and their fathers will supply observational data concerning parents' and offspring's reactions to problems in their relationships. In addition, 150 offspring who reside at a distance from their parents will provide information about problems in their relationships. It is hypothesized that differences in beliefs about the relationship and variation in investment in the relationship will explain age, gender, and status differences in perceptions of problems and reactions to problems. This research will provide a more comprehensive portrait of the parent/offspring relationship across adulthood. Furthermore, findings from this study will be of use to psychologists, social workers, and family practitioners who work with parents and adult offspring who encounter relationship problems.

Grant: 5R01AG008825-11
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: FRIEDMAN, HOWARD S MD
Title: PREDICTORS OF HEALTH AND LONGEVITY
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE RIVERSIDE, CA
Project Period: 1990/08/01-2005/01/31

This competing continuation project will employ the 7-decade longitudinal Terman data to examine relationships between theoretically key behavioral and psychosocial predictors and longevity/cause of death/healthy aging. This interdisciplinary research will test hypothesized relations involving the mechanisms of physical activity patterns, risk-taking, religiosity and contentment, changes in social integration across time, explanatory style and resilience, gender diagnostics, substance use, and facets of personality as they predict health many years later. The design is an archival prospective cohort study, using statistical survival analyses and related regression analyses. Because of the long-term nature and richness of the data, this project can compare competing models, can examine long-term effects and time-related changes, and can compare major causes of death. This is consistent with calls for intensive studies of individual differences in behavior patterns, health and disease. Much of the raw data come from the archive begun in 1921 by L. Terman, plus extensive additional data already collected by this project on date of death, cause of death, smoking, and various indexes of personality and social stability. The subjects are 856 men and 672 women followed from their childhood in the 1920's until the present, the longest continuous cohort study ever conducted. Following up on the ongoing research, which uncovered links between major psychosocial patterns earlier in life and subsequent premature death in middle and old age, the present project will employ reliable behavioral patterns and psychosocial indices to compare models containing these and related later-life psychosocial stresses and resources. This project thus aims to provide hard-to-obtain information relevant to understanding the influence of these social, individual, and behavioral factors on longevity and cause of death across the life span.

Grant: 5R01AG017967-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: GANONG, LAWRENCE H PHD
Title: Obligations to Older Kin after Divorce and Remarriage
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLUMBIA COLUMBIA, MO
Project Period: 2001/09/01-2004/07/31

Obligations to Older Kin after Divorce and Remarriage The rising costs of health care and the efforts of the federal and local governments to cut back on services have increased the importance of understanding normative beliefs about family obligations to dependent older kin. Normative beliefs about what should be done are important to understand because they help individuals define and negotiate their responsibilities, they serve as criteria to measure how well individuals are functioning as family members, and they provide a framework that people use to justify and explain their conduct to others. What people do in relationships is based partly on felt responsibilities and partly on normative expectations about what should be done. The overall purposes of this project are to examine normative and felt obligations to older divorced parents and stepparents and to assess the effects of selected contextual factors on normative and felt obligations. The factors examined are type of relationships (genetic or step), relationship quality, resource availability, acuity of need, prior commitments, prior patterns of exchanges between kin, and sex of both older and younger adults. The project consists of six telephone surveys that will examine both the long-term effects of parental divorce and remarriage and the effects of later-life divorce and remarriage on normative and felt obligations to older parents and stepparents. All studies will use the same design. A national sample of adults will be obtained using random digit dialing. Multiple-segment vignettes will be used to assess normative and felt obligations. Each vignette is divided into 2-5 paragraphs. In each paragraph an older family member needs help (e.g., physical care, financial help). The families experience various transitions as the stories develop. After each paragraph respondents indicate what they think specific characters should do about helping or not helping older family members and they offer the rationale for their beliefs. Respondents will be randomly presented with one of the versions of vignettes in the factorial survey technique, just as in experimental research. Responses regarding what family members should do will be analyzed with multiple regression. Rationale will be content analyzed. The findings of this project will be used to test and refine a model of normative intergenerational obligations and to develop a model of felt obligations after divorce and remarriage.

Grant: 5R01AG020048-06
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: GOLDBERG, LEWIS R PHD
Title: Personality and Health-- A Longitudinal Study
Institution: OREGON RESEARCH INSTITUTE EUGENE, OR
Project Period: 1997/09/20-2007/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The broad objectives of this project are to test the models and mechanisms by which childhood personality traits predict adult health-related behaviors, health status and, eventually, mortality. The specific aims are to test three increasingly complex versions of a health-behavior model in which personality traits influence health status through health behaviors, and to evaluate any cultural influences on these models. The participants comprise a cohort of middle-aged adults for whom unique and irreplaceable teacher personality assessments were obtained about 40 years ago. Specifically, 1,770 members of the original population of Hawaiian schoolchildren have been located and 1,055 have been recruited to participate in this longitudinal study of personality and health. The recruited sample is representative of the original population in terms of personality attributes and gender. Over the next five years, information about the participants' personality traits, health behaviors, and health outcomes will be obtained. The personality measures will be based on several different theoretical perspectives including the five-factor framework. Health behaviors will include dietary practices, physical activity levels, and tobacco and alcohol usage. Health outcomes will include objectively assessed physical fitness and flexibility, obesity, and cholesterol level. Assessment methods will include self-reports, reports from knowledgeable others, observer ratings, physical/medical examinations, and laboratory tests. Frequency and appraisals of stressful life events, coping strategies, and constructs from the Theory of Planned Behavior will also be assessed to evaluate the more complex versions of the proposed health-behavior model. The effects on these models of cultural variables, socioeconomic status, and gender will be examined. The cross-sectional and longitudinal influences of personality traits will be evaluated by bivariate and multivariate linear models and structural equation modeling. This project will create a longitudinal data archive that will be a treasure chest for the scientific community for years to come.

Grant: 5R01AG016352-05
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: HUMMERT, MARY L. PHD
Title: SOCIAL COGNITION, COMMUNICATION, AGE STEREOTYPING
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LAWRENCE LAWRENCE, KS
Project Period: 1999/01/01-2004/12/31

This project will address the social cognitive processes that link communication behaviors and age stereotyping. Prior research by the PI has shown that young, middle-aged, and older adults hold both positive and negative stereotypes of older people. Further that research has established that negative stereotypes, more than positive ones, led to the use of patronizing speech with older targets. Age differences, however, are evident both in the complexity of age stereotype schemas and in the relationship between negative stereotyping and the production of patronizing speech. Older adults hold more complex age stereotype schemas and are less likely to use patronizing talk toward a negatively stereotyped target than are young and middle-aged individuals. The proposed project will add to this body of research by investigating how communication behaviors of older persons (e.g., responses to patronizing talk, self disclosures of health and personal problems, age-telling, verbosity) may contribute to negative stereotyping in the impression formation process. In addition, it will investigate the extent to which impression judgements of older persons and communication to older persons reflect implicit stereotyping. Specific aims of the project are: 1. To determine the communication behaviors of older adults that lead to positive and negative stereotyping; 2. To test the strength of the relationship between implicit age stereotypes, impressions of older communicators, and communications behaviors toward older persons; 3. To examine age differences in the social cognitive processes that link communication behaviors and age stereotyping.

Grant: 5R01AG009221-10
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: KRAUSE, NEAL M BA
Title: WELL-BEING AMONG THE AGED:PERSONAL CONTROL & SELF-ESTEEM
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR ANN ARBOR, MI
Project Period: 1991/04/01-2006/03/31

DESCRIPTION (Adapted from applicant's abstract): The purpose of this application is to seek funds to continue work on the NIA-supported project, "Well-Being Among the Aged: Personal Control and Self-Esteem" (R01 AG-09221). The first three years of this project (1991-1993) were devoted to conducting a face-to-face nationwide survey of 1,103 older adults. Role-specific measures of stress, control, and self-worth were developed to test the following hypotheses: (1) that events arising in highly salient roles exert an especially noxious impact on well-being; (2) that these deleterious effects operate by eroding feelings of control and self-esteem associated with the roles in which these stressors emerged; and (3) that support provided by significant others tends to offset the impact of salient role stressors by bolstering bolster role-specific feelings of control and self-worth. The application seeks to build upon these findings by conducting two reinterviews with the participants in the baseline survey. This data will allow us to address the following new objectives: 1. To describe aggregate as well as individual-level change in multiple dimensions of stress, social support, personal control, self-esteem, and distress; 2. To estimate a series of three-wave panel models in order to evaluate the temporal ordering among the constructs listed above; 3. To assess whether levels of stress, social support, self-esteem, personal control, and distress vary across eight social roles when these roles are valued highly by older adults; 4. To estimate a latent variable model that is designed to see if specific kinds of stressors, social support, and feelings of control influence the selection of particular kinds of coping responses; 5. To examine the effects of role transitions on distress; 6. To assess whether specific types of salient role stressors exert a differential impact on depressive symptoms; 7. To explore whether social support provided in one role (e.g., the parental role) offsets the effects of stress arising in another role (e.g., the marital role); 8. To see whether the value placed on social roles influences whether the effects of stressors arising in one role spill over into another role.

Grant: 5R01AG012113-05
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MCAULEY, EDWARD MOTH
Title: Exerise, Aging, and Psychological Function
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA- CHAMPAIGN, IL
CHAMPAIGN
Project Period: 1995/09/30-2004/01/31

This proposal is a competitive renewal which examines the long-term (5 years) follow-up effects of a six-month exercise program (Illinois Active Aging) on psychological function in older adults (N=174). In addition, a media and telephone booster intervention to increase physical activity and, in turn, psychological function in the original participant sample is proposed. The specific aims are: (a) To examine the shape and form of physical activity participation, physical fitness, and psychosocial function at approximately five years beyond entry into a six-month walking or stretching/toning exercise intervention; (b) To determine which social, psychological, behavioral, and physical factors determine long-term physical activity maintenance; (c) To examine the effects of a six-month telephone and mail-based intervention on physical activity participation and psychological function five years beyond the initial intervention. It is expected that the "booster" intervention, as compared to the control group will increase their levels of physical activity thereby increasing their physical fitness levels. In addition, it is expected that the intervention will lead to enhanced self-efficacy, self-esteem, and subjective well-being; (d) Finally, the role played by physical activity participation, fitness, and self-efficacy in improved psychological function will be examined. There are several strengths associated with the proposed studies. First, little is known about the long-term effects of exercise programs on the physical and psychological health of older adults beyond the more immediate effects of activity interventions. This project proposes to employ multiple sample latent growth curve methods to map the growth and form of change in these health parameters five years beyond the start of the original randomized controlled trial. No exercise trials to date have attempted to follow subjects for such a length of time. Second, the proposal is theoretically grounded rather than descriptive and we expect changes in self-efficacy to be instrumental in changes in function. Third, we propose to implement a media/telephone intervention to try to reverse the expected declines in physical activity and psychosocial function. Typically, after standard follow-up assessments in exercise trials, no such efforts are made. As such, the proposed study represents a unique attempt to further understand the role played by physical activity in the psychological health of older Americans.

Grant: 5R01AG012393-09
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MIROWSKY, JOHN I BA
Title: AGING, STATUS, AND THE SENSE OF CONTROL
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN AUSTIN, TX
Project Period: 1994/01/01-2005/03/31

Broad objectives. This study aims to describe and explain the relationship between age and changes in the sense of control over one's life. Specific aims. Four preliminary cross-sectional surveys show that the average sense of control declines in successively older age groups beginning in late middle age. The current study measures change in the sense of control over a three-year follow-up period, correlates the changes with age, and tests hypotheses about the form and components of the association. The main hypotheses are: (I) Over a period of time, the sense of control declines by an amount that increases with age; (II) the change in sense of control reflects an underlying change in biosocial function, which accelerates with age; (III) higher social status slows the decline in the sense of control, possibly by preserving biosocial function; and (IV) changes in biosocial function and in the sense of control have deviation-amplifying reciprocal effects that accelerate age-dependent changes in the sense of control. Health relatedness. If Rodin's theory of aging dynamics is correct, a sense of control over one's life increases active participation and improves emotional well-being and physical function, which in turn bolsters the sense of control. Emotional well-being and physical function are health factors themselves, and they decrease subsequent morbidity and mortality. Study design and methods. The study surveys a national sample of persons ages 18 and over. Respondents were selected at random and first interviewed by telephone in late 1994 or early 1995. Persons age 60 and older were over-sampled by 80 percent. The design calls for three waves of interviews three years apart. Collection of the second wave will be complete in Spring of 1998. The application requests continued support for analysis of data from the first two waves, and support for collecting and analyzing a third wave of data. The analyses will specify models that test the hypotheses and address technical issues such as measurement error and non-random attrition.

Grant: 5R01AG011995-09
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MOSSEY, JANA M BA
Title: QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH, AND VALUATION OF LIFE BY ELDERS
Institution: POLISHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE NORTH WALES, PA
Project Period: 1995/01/25-2004/12/31

DESCRIPTION (adapted from the investigator's abstract): The course of frailty and chronic illness will be tracked over 6 years in terms of changes in a set of characteristics that are related to quality of life and potentially to end-of-life attitudes and behavior. The research hypothesizes a cognitive-affective schema, valuation of life (VOL) that is influenced by background factors, health, quality of life, and mental health. VOL is the person's transformations of these inputs and suggested as the major determinant of attitudes and behaviors relevant to the extension versus foreshortening of life. The major hypotheses are that the wish to live is not only decreased by distress but may be incremented by some positive features in the person's daily life. Six hundred elders in good and poor health were recruited for participation in a structured interview, and are beginning the second round of interviews. The present proposal will extend the follow-up period to 6 years, with 270 expected to remain independent, 170 to be ADL-dependent, and 160 to die. Changes over 6 years in Years of Desired Life will be analyzed in terms of changes in health, quality of life, mental health, and VOL. Although multiple comorbidities are the rule, disease-specific trajectories will be sought for 5 illness groups: Congestive heart failure, bowel cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and renal disease among dialysis patients. All analyses will be performed by race (50% African American) and gender. The results will contribute both to clinical practice directed toward the well-being of individuals and to social policy issues where quality of life is involved as a rationale for the distribution of health care costs. A form of religious coping, trusting relationship God, is hypothesized as a moderator of health threat as it influences mental health and VOL.

Grant: 5R01AG018436-04
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MROCZEK, DANIEL K. PHD
Title: PERSONALITY AND WELL BEING TRAJECTORIES IN ADULTHOOD
Institution: FORDHAM UNIVERSITY BRONX, NY
Project Period: 2000/09/15-2005/08/31

DESCRIPTION (adapted from investigator's abstract): The goals of this study are to: (1) estimate the individual differences in personality and well-being change in older adults over time, (2) estimate exposure and determinants of day-to-day events and stressors among older adults, as well as relating these estimates to the longer-term, multi-year trajectories, and (3) examine differences among persons in intraindividual change due to health, life events, and sociodemographic characteristics. The study population is from the VA Normative Aging Study (NAS), a 35-year old study of aging (age range: 49-90 years). Two investigations will be conducted including a new longitudinal data collection over three waves, and combining these data with existing longitudinal data collected from 1975 to 1999. A cohort of women are added, specifically the wives of the NAS men. In the second study, a daily diary design is employed within a subset of NAS husband-wife pairs over an 8-day period. Together, the two studies investigate change and stability in personality and well-being over different periods of time. The fact that most theories on well-being and personality focus on change or stability at the personal level coupled with research at the sample level, only modeling intraindividual change will reconcile this discrepancy. The multi-year study will allow the examination of change and stability in personality traits and well-being, whereas the 8-day diary study permits the examination of state variability in stressors and affective components of well-being. Individual growth modeling to estimate intraindividual trajectories and hierarchical modeling to evaluate the impact of immediate stressors and day-to-day affect will be employed respectively. Gender and personality influences on daily variation will also be examined. Husband-wife personality interrelationship will be examined. Day-to-day variability (e.g., affect) will be examined as potential predictors of multi-year personality and well-being trajectories. With this study a better understanding of why some people change and why some do not will be achieved.

Grant: 5R01AG008768-14
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: SELTZER, MARSHA M PHD
Title: IMPACTS OF PARENTING ADOLESCENTS & ADULTS WITH AUTISM
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON MADISON, WI
Project Period: 1990/02/01-2005/08/31

This application seeks five years of support to continue the investigators'dual site research involving the impacts of life long parenting for adolescent and adult sons or daughters with mental retardation (MR). The focus of the work shifts in this application to a new population, as a sample of 400 families of adolescents and adults with autism will be studied. The proposed investigation will address four central issues: (1) the manifestation of symptoms of autism among adolescents and adults (both cross-sectionally and longitudinally), (2) the effects of the behavioral, communicative, and social functioning of persons with autism on parental well-being (again cross-sectionally and longitudinally), (3) the antecedents and consequences of placement of the person with autism, and (4) the impact of differential diagnostic groups on family well-being. The fourth aim, families of persons with autism will be compared with two previously collected samples of families: one with a son or daughter with Down syndrome, and one with a son or daughter with schizophrenia. These samples, and the data relating to them, are available from previous or ongoing funded work by the current investigative group.

Grant: 5R01AG018903-03

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: SMITH, TIMOTHY W
PHD CLINICAL
PSYC:CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGY-UNSPEC

Title: HOSTILITY, MARITAL INTERACTION AND HEALTH IN AGING

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Project Period: 2001/06/01-2005/05/31

Hostility confers increased risk of coronary heart disease, presumably through the mechanism of cardiovascular reactivity to interpersonal stressors. Marriage is an important context for this mechanism. However, an adult developmental perspective suggests that marital conflict may be a more central issue for trait hostility among middle-aged spouses, whereas the stress of collaboration may be important for hostility in older couples. Guided by a model of individual, spouse, and couple effects of hostility, the proposed study examines the effects of hostility on immediate behavioral and psychophysiological responses to marital conflict and collaboration, and on health outcomes of ambulatory blood pressure, coronary artery disease, marital adjustment, and cognitive functioning. The major aims are to examine (a) how the effect of hostility on behavioral and cardiovascular responses may differ for middle-aged and older adults, during conflict and collaborative problem solving, (b) the effect of hostility on ambulatory blood pressure and coronary artery disease, and (c) the role of hostility in the frequency and quality of collaborative problem solving. One-hundred and fifty middle-aged (40-50 years) and 150 older married couples (60-70 years) will be involved in a 4-day study. Hostility will be measured in a multi-method approach with interview, self-report, and spouse report measures. Marital interaction will be examined as couples discuss a source of marital conflict and solve a planning task. Interaction will be coded for components typical of interactions of hostile persons and also detrimental to collaborative cognition. Psychophysiological reactivity will be examined via blood pressure, heart rate, and impedance cardiography during the two tasks. The effects of hostility will be examined on health outcomes such as coronary artery disease (assessed via computed tomography) ambulatory blood pressure, marital adjustment, and general cognitive function (e.g., fluid and crystallized intelligence). The long-term goal of the research is to identify potentially modifiable determinants of cardiovascular risk, marital adjustment, and cognitive aging in adulthood.

Grant: 5R01AG018869-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: SUITOR, JILL J PHD
Title: PARENT-ADULT CHILD RELATIONS: WITHIN FAMILY DIFFERENCES
Institution: LOUISIANA STATE UNIV A&M COL BATON BATON ROUGE, LA
ROUGE
Project Period: 2001/02/15-2005/01/31

DESCRIPTION (adapted from Investigator's abstract): The proposed study will investigate within-family differences in parent-child relations in later life. Interviews will be conducted with a representative sample of 600 mothers between the ages of 65 and 75 living in the Boston area, their husbands, if available, and all the adult children in the family. African Americans will be over sampled. The study will examine the degree to which adult children in the same family differ in their relationships with elderly parents, as well as the factors explaining these differences. The major research questions are: 1) what is the extent of within-family differences in parent-adult child relations in later-life families? 2) What are the determinants of within-family differences in parent-child relations? Three sets of predictors will be examined as determinants of relationship quality: status similarity of parent and child; developmental history; and exchange and equity characteristics. The study will focus on the effects of within-family differences rather than individual structural and developmental characteristics of each child.

Grant: 1R03AG022168-01
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: ISAACOWITZ, DEREK M PHD
Title: Time's Eye: Aging and Attention to Emotional Stimuli
Institution: BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY WALTHAM, MA
Project Period: 2003/05/01-2004/04/30

NIA Pilot Research Grant Program, Objective 12: Cognition in Context : This project aims to use a novel methodological approach to the investigation of a primary issue in the study of socioemotional development in adulthood and old age: namely, how it is possible that most older individuals report being happy and satisfied with their lives, despite the changes they face as they age. One theory that has been offered to account for this phenomenon is socioemotional selectivity theory, which posits that emotions become more salient to individuals with age; this increased focus on emotion in cognitive processing allows older individuals to proactively regulate their emotions. If emotional material is indeed more salient to older individuals, how does this happen? It is unlikely that emotions are more salient to older individuals simply because they appraise or interpret information in a more emotion-focused way than do younger adults, suggesting that the way in which emotion is more salient to them takes place earlier in information processing than the final steps of interpretation and reframing. Emotional material may thus receive preferential treatment in the attentional processes of older adults, and this preference or bias relatively early in information processing may underlie the increased salience of emotion across many domains of their functioning. It may be the case that emotional material is simply more salient overall than is nonemotional material to older adults, or rather that older individuals show an attentional preference for positive over negative emotional stimuli. Either could help promote successful emotion regulation. This proposal aims to directly study whether there are attentional mechanisms underlying the increased salience of emotion to older individuals by using an eye tracker to measure attention to emotional and nonemotional stimuli in real time in adults of different ages. The project has two primary goals: 1. To examine whether emotion is more salient to the cognitive processing of older as compared with younger individuals, by evaluating attentional preferences to emotional vs. nonemotional and to positive vs. negative emotional stimuli; and 2. To develop and test different methods for assessing these preferences in adults of different ages. The primary hypotheses of the project are that older individuals will demonstrate greater attentional preferences for emotional over non-emotional, as well as for positive over negative, visual stimuli as compared to young adults. Two studies will be conducted to test these hypotheses, as well as to refine methods for conducting this type of research in the future. To the extent that these hypotheses are supported, it would suggest that the successful emotion regulation shown by many older individuals arises from biases and preferences in the early, attentional stages of their information processing. The results would also have implications for the etiology and treatment of depression.

Grant: 1R03AG022057-01A1
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: ROBINS, RICHARD W PHD
Title: A Cohort-Sequential Study of Self-Esteem Development
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS DAVIS, CA
Project Period: 2003/09/30-2005/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Background and Aims: High self-esteem is associated with many positive outcomes, including occupational success, healthy relationships, subjective well-being, and academic achievement. Conversely, low self-esteem has been linked to a number of societal problems, including depressive symptoms, poor health, and antisocial behavior. Given its importance, we know relatively little about the development of self-esteem during adulthood and old age, about the factors that promote self-esteem at different stages of the lifespan, or about the long-term consequences of self-esteem for important life outcomes. Aims of the proposed project include: (1) to document age differences in self-esteem across the entire adult lifespan, (2) to test hypotheses about the effects of work, relationship, and health experiences on intra-individual changes in self-esteem, and (3) to examine the reciprocal influence of self-esteem on changes in work, relationship, and health experiences. Methods: The proposed research will use data from the Americans' Changing Lives (ACL) study, a national 3-wave panel study that uses a cohort-sequential design in which individuals aged 25 to 96 were followed longitudinally for eight years (N = 3,617; N = 2,867; N = 2,562). The ACL dataset provides a unique opportunity to delineate the normative trajectory of self-esteem from early adulthood to old age and to examine reciprocal relations between self-esteem and important life experiences. The cohort-sequential design allows us to test whether age-related changes in self-esteem and the antecedents and consequences of self-esteem generalize across multiple age cohorts. Hypotheses will be tested using structural equation modeling with latent growth curves. Significance: The findings will help establish when in the lifespan normative change in self-esteem occurs, provide new knowledge about the conditions under which self-esteem changes, and identify factors that promote healthy self-esteem development. Moreover, the proposed research will test competing hypotheses about the positive and negative consequences of self-esteem and help reconcile conflicting theoretical views about whether self-esteem is a cause or consequence (or both) of important social problems. Finally, by examining patterns of results across developmental periods and across three life domains, we will use the findings to develop an overarching theory of the life course trajectory of self-esteem.

Grant: 5R13AG009787-13

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: SCHAIE, K W
PHD GEN/EXP
PSYCH:GEN/EXPER
PSYCHOL-UNSPEC

Title: CONFERENCE - STRUCTURE AND AGING

Institution: PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY-UNIV UNIVERSITY PARK, PA
PARK

Project Period: 1996/08/01-2005/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): This proposal requests funds to continue a series of conferences designed to explore the interfaces between disciplines concerned with the study of social macro- and micro-structures, and those disciplines specifically concerned with the investigation of individual differences in human aging processes. Prior conferences have addressed Social Structure and Aging topics: Psychological Processes (1986); Age Structures in Cultural Perspective (1987); Self-directedness and Efficacy: Causes and Effects Throughout the Life Course (1988); Aging, Health Behaviors and Health Outcomes (1989); Social Structures and Caregiving: Family and Cross National Perspectives (1990); Societal Impact on Aging: Historical Perspectives (1991); Social Structure and Aging: Intergenerational Perspectives (1992); Societal Mechanisms that Maintain Individual Competence (1993); Impact of Social Structures on Decision Making in the Elderly (1994); Impact of the Workplace on the Aging Individual (1995); Mobility and Aging (1997); Impact of Society on the Aging Self (1998); Social Structures and Effective Health Behaviors (1999); Mastery and Control in the Elderly (2000); and Impact of Technology and Successful Aging (2001). A sixteenth conference on the topic of Impact of Religious Organizations on Health and Well-being in the Elderly to be held in 2002 is in preparation. The proposed conferences will address: Impact of Historical Events on the Elderly, (2003; Glen Elder, co-chair); Social Structures, Aging and Self Regulation in the Elderly (2004; Laura Carstensen, co,chair); and Impact of Demographic Changes on Health and Well-being tin the Elderly (2005, Peter Uhlenberg, co-chair). Each proposed conference will involve 18 invited participants and up to 100 observers. Papers and discussions will be published in volumes edited by the conference organizers of the respective "Societal Impacts on Aging" series.

Grant: 5R37AG017766-04

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: LEVENSON, ROBERT W
PHD GEN/EXP
PSYCH:GEN/EXPER
PSYCHOL-UNSPEC

Title: EMOTION AND AGE--REACTION, REGULATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY BERKELEY, CA

Project Period: 2000/08/01-2005/06/30

Emotion is a prominent feature of life, increasingly thought to play a central role throughout the life-span in a wide range of human processes. Whereas losses are seen in many psychological and physical domains in old age, emotion may be an area of functioning that is relatively spared. Learning and experience play a critical role in many aspects of emotion, thus it is conceivable that actual gains may be seen in old age. This proposal requests support for a series of studies in which three of the most fundamental aspects of emotion--emotional reaction, emotional regulation, and emotional understanding--are studied cross-sectionally in samples of young, middle-age, and elderly individuals and longitudinally in samples of middle-aged and older individuals who will have been studied three times over a ten-year period. The proposed studies are characterized by a multi-method approach in which subjective, expressive, and physiological aspects of both positive and negative emotions are considered. Although all studies are conducted in a laboratory setting, both naturalistic and experimentally manipulated behaviors are studied. The work attempts to disambiguate several issues in the literature on emotion and age. By studying relatively non-emotional tasks (e.g., isometric exercise) and highly emotional tasks, it should be possible to separate age differences in emotional reactivity from possible age differences in non-emotional reactivity. By instructing subjects to regulate their emotions in different ways (suppress and amplify using antecedent focused, response-focused, and non-directed strategies), we will be able to determine if the capacity to control emotion increases in late life. By using an empathic accuracy task with high ecological validity and objective accuracy criteria, it should be possible to determine whether there are actual changes in one important aspect of emotional understanding--the ability to know what others are feeling--with age. By studying emotion in vivo in a longitudinal sample, we should learn whether age differences in emotional reaction and regulation previously observed in cross-sectional comparisons are also reflected within individuals over time. Finally, using the longitudinal data it should be possible to test the notion that gender differences, which are quite large in the realm of emotion early in life, diminish with age.

Grant: 3R37AG017766-04S1

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: LEVENSON, ROBERT W. PHD GEN/EXP
PSYCH:GEN/EXPER
PSYCHOL-UNSPEC

Title: EMOTION AND AGE--REACTION, REGULATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY BERKELEY, CA

Project Period: 2000/08/01-2005/06/30

Emotion is a prominent feature of life, increasingly thought to play a central role throughout the life-span in a wide range of human processes. Whereas losses are seen in many psychological and physical domains in old age, emotion may be an area of functioning that is relatively spared. Learning and experience play a critical role in many aspects of emotion, thus it is conceivable that actual gains may be seen in old age. This proposal requests support for a series of studies in which three of the most fundamental aspects of emotion--emotional reaction, emotional regulation, and emotional understanding--are studied cross-sectionally in samples of young, middle-age, and elderly individuals and longitudinally in samples of middle-aged and older individuals who will have been studied three times over a ten-year period. The proposed studies are characterized by a multi-method approach in which subjective, expressive, and physiological aspects of both positive and negative emotions are considered. Although all studies are conducted in a laboratory setting, both naturalistic and experimentally manipulated behaviors are studied. The work attempts to disambiguate several issues in the literature on emotion and age. By studying relatively non-emotional tasks (e.g., isometric exercise) and highly emotional tasks, it should be possible to separate age differences in emotional reactivity from possible age differences in non-emotional reactivity. By instructing subjects to regulate their emotions in different ways (suppress and amplify using antecedent focused, response-focused, and non-directed strategies), we will be able to determine if the capacity to control emotion increases in late life. By using an empathic accuracy task with high ecological validity and objective accuracy criteria, it should be possible to determine whether there are actual changes in one important aspect of emotional understanding--the ability to know what others are feeling--with age. By studying emotion in vivo in a longitudinal sample, we should learn whether age differences in emotional reaction and regulation previously observed in cross-sectional comparisons are also reflected within individuals over time. Finally, using the longitudinal data it should be possible to test the notion that gender differences, which are quite large in the realm of emotion early in life, diminish with age.

Grant: 3R37AG017766-04S2

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: LEVENSON, ROBERT W. PHD GEN/EXP
PSYCH:GEN/EXPER
PSYCHOL-UNSPEC

Title: EMOTION AND AGE--REACTION, REGULATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY BERKELEY, CA

Project Period: 2000/08/01-2005/06/30

Emotion is a prominent feature of life, increasingly thought to play a central role throughout the life-span in a wide range of human processes. Whereas losses are seen in many psychological and physical domains in old age, emotion may be an area of functioning that is relatively spared. Learning and experience play a critical role in many aspects of emotion, thus it is conceivable that actual gains may be seen in old age. This proposal requests support for a series of studies in which three of the most fundamental aspects of emotion--emotional reaction, emotional regulation, and emotional understanding--are studied cross-sectionally in samples of young, middle-age, and elderly individuals and longitudinally in samples of middle-aged and older individuals who will have been studied three times over a ten-year period. The proposed studies are characterized by a multi-method approach in which subjective, expressive, and physiological aspects of both positive and negative emotions are considered. Although all studies are conducted in a laboratory setting, both naturalistic and experimentally manipulated behaviors are studied. The work attempts to disambiguate several issues in the literature on emotion and age. By studying relatively non-emotional tasks (e.g., isometric exercise) and highly emotional tasks, it should be possible to separate age differences in emotional reactivity from possible age differences in non-emotional reactivity. By instructing subjects to regulate their emotions in different ways (suppress and amplify using antecedent focused, response-focused, and non-directed strategies), we will be able to determine if the capacity to control emotion increases in late life. By using an empathic accuracy task with high ecological validity and objective accuracy criteria, it should be possible to determine whether there are actual changes in one important aspect of emotional understanding--the ability to know what others are feeling--with age. By studying emotion in vivo in a longitudinal sample, we should learn whether age differences in emotional reaction and regulation previously observed in cross-sectional comparisons are also reflected within individuals over time. Finally, using the longitudinal data it should be possible to test the notion that gender differences, which are quite large in the realm of emotion early in life, diminish with age.

Grant: 5R37AG013993-09
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: RUBINSTEIN, ROBERT L. MA ANTHROPOLOGY
Title: BEREAVEMENT IN LONG TERM CARE
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALT PROF BALTIMORE, MD
SCHOOL
Project Period: 1996/09/01-2004/08/31

DESCRIPTION: The major aim of the proposed research is to examine how the topic and event of death are understood and acted upon in four long-term care institutions. There has been very little work on the social construction of death in long-term care institutions. Specific aims of the proposed research include the following: 1) assess the effects of distinctive cultural and religious backgrounds of the LTC settings on the treatment and construction of death; 2) examine the institutional organization, framework, and both direct and de facto philosophies concerning death; 3) examine the division of labor among staff and family concerning death-work; 4) investigate the role of death in the daily life of the focal institutions; and 5) assess the mental health effects of current institutional practices on residents, staff and family. Research will occur sequentially in four LTC settings representing distinctive ethnicities and religions (Jewish-American; African-American, primarily Protestant; European American, primarily Irish Catholic, and European American, primarily northern-European Methodist). The methods and analysis will be ethnographic and qualitative in nature, as appropriate for the goals of the study, the research settings, and the level of knowledge development in this area. Consequently, methods will involve in-depth, key informant interviewing; participant observation of activities around death and dying; and case studies.

Grant: 2T32AG000037-26A1
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: BENGTON, VERN L PHD
Title: Multidisciplinary Research In Training in Gerontology
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CA
Project Period: 1977/09/01-2008/04/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of this program is to train productive researchers in aging who are equipped to work both within and across scientific fields provide a multidisciplinary context for research training in aging. The program involves faculty and students from four clusters or schools: (1) The School of Gerontology; (2) The cross-university Program in Neuroscience (Molecular Biology, Neurobiology, Neurology; (3) The department of Psychology; (4) the Department of Sociology. The emphases of the program, reflecting current research strengths of faculty, are in six crosscutting areas: (1) concepts and theories of gerontology; (2) families and aging; (3) biodemography and aging; (4) diversity in aging, across and within societies; (5) mental health and aging; (6) oxidative stress, aging, and neuroplasticity. The training program is designed so that trainees will: (1) master the knowledge, methods, and theory of one scientific paradigm analyzing age-related phenomena; (2) become familiar with related scientific disciplines and their multidisciplinary contributions to crossspecialty research in aging; (3) begin to develop productive research careers by working closely with their Preceptor; presenting and publishing results of their research, and developing an independent research agenda. Predoctoral Trainees complete an academic program based on Departmental requirements. Both predocs and postdocs develop research competence working with their Preceptor and moving toward increasingly independent research and publications. The multidisciplinary training of this program focuses on (1) the weekly Multidisciplinary Research in Aging Colloquium, required of all Trainees, (2) required and elective course offerings in aging from other Departments, (3) opportunities for involvement in crossdisciplinary research among Preceptors, (4) the expectation that Trainees will present papers reporting their research at national professional multidisciplinary meetings. Funds are requested to support 10 predoctoral and 4 postdoctoral Trainees.

Grant: 3T32AG000037-26A1S1

Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.

Principal Investigator: BENGTON, VERN L PHD PSYCH ASPECT:SOC
PSYCH/ASPECTS-UNSPEC

Title: Multidisciplinary Research In Training in Gerontology

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CA

Project Period: 1977/09/01-2008/04/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of this program is to train productive researchers in aging who are equipped to work both within and across scientific fields provide a multidisciplinary context for research training in aging. The program involves faculty and students from four clusters or schools: (1) The School of Gerontology; (2) The cross-university Program in Neuroscience (Molecular Biology, Neurobiology, Neurology; (3) The department of Psychology; (4) the Department of Sociology. The emphases of the program, reflecting current research strengths of faculty, are in six crosscutting areas: (1) concepts and theories of gerontology; (2) families and aging; (3) biodemography and aging; (4) diversity in aging, across and within societies; (5) mental health and aging; (6) oxidative stress, aging, and neuroplasticity. The training program is designed so that trainees will: (1) master the knowledge, methods, and theory of one scientific paradigm analyzing age-related phenomena; (2) become familiar with related scientific disciplines and their multidisciplinary contributions to crossspecialty research in aging; (3) begin to develop productive research careers by working closely with their Preceptor; presenting and publishing results of their research, and developing an independent research agenda. Predoctoral Trainees complete an academic program based on Departmental requirements. Both predocs and postdocs develop research competence working with their Preceptor and moving toward increasingly independent research and publications. The multidisciplinary training of this program focuses on (1) the weekly Multidisciplinary Research in Aging Colloquium, required of all Trainees, (2) required and elective course offerings in aging from other Departments, (3) opportunities for involvement in crossdisciplinary research among Preceptors, (4) the expectation that Trainees will present papers reporting their research at national professional multidisciplinary meetings. Funds are requested to support 10 predoctoral and 4 postdoctoral Trainees.

Grant: 5T32AG000029-28
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: COHEN, HARVEY JAY MD
Title: BEHAVIOR AND PHYSIOLOGY IN AGING
Institution: DUKE UNIVERSITY DURHAM, NC
Project Period: 1984/07/01-2004/04/30

This postdoctoral research training program is designed to produce research investigators with career interests in aging. Trainees come with strong backgrounds in biomedical, behavioral or social science disciplines to receive specific research training from appropriate laboratories at Duke University involved in aging research. Fellows generally spend two years in training. We have the faculty and facilities to train fellows in the following areas: biomedical research (biochemistry, cardiology, endocrinology, epidemiology, immunology, neurology, neuroscience, neuroendocrinology, nutrition, oncology, physiology, pharmacology, psychiatry, and radiology); behavioral research (behavioral medicine, psychophysiology, and clinical, cognitive, developmental, experimental, personality and social psychology); and social science research (anthropology, economics, sociology, and health services research). Trainees apply to work in a specific laboratory and spend about 95% of their time in research. Each fellow is integrated into the laboratory of the preceptor, learning research by participating in collaborative and independent research projects. The other major training activity is our weekly seminar series for fellows and faculty which includes a structured series of seminars on multi-disciplinary aspects of aging, professional development, research design and data analysis. Auditing of courses is available as desired. Trainees are selected on the basis of a detailed research proposal of career and training plans, transcripts, and a curriculum vita. Most trainees take positions on university faculties or in full-time research setting when leaving the program. Support is requested for eight (8) postdoctoral fellows. About one-third of the trainees enter with level of experience beyond two years. The primary training facility is the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. Faculty associated with the Center are located throughout the University.

Grant: 5T32AG000275-03
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: LICHTENBERG, PETER A PHD
Title: PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH TRAINING IN AGING & URBAN HEALTH
Institution: REHABILITATION INSTITUTE OF MICHIGAN DETROIT, MI
Project Period: 2001/05/15-2006/04/30

DESCRIPTION: (from abstract) The WSU gerontology research training program in aging and urban health seeks funding to enhance its exceptional predoctoral program. The program faculty consist of 11 faculty across the WSU campus who have over 14 million dollars in current NIH funded research projects. In just 4 years, the program is credited with 4 students completing dissertations and 8 students completing master s thesis. In addition, students have produced 30 publications and 68 conference presentations, as well as been recognized with several national awards. The strengths of the program lie in the commitment of resources to training, the commitment of faculty to mentorship, and the rich urban environment in which students participate in all aspects of research. With the assistance of this 5 year grant, and matching funds from the IOG, 20 trainees will acquire expertise in gerontology, and participate in cutting edge research. These skills will allow WSU trainees to become prominent scholars in aging and urban health.

Grant: 1T32AG020499-01A1
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MARSISKE, MICHAEL PHD
Title: Physical, Cognitive and Mental Health in Social Context
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GAINESVILLE, FL
Project Period: 2003/05/01-2008/04/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The Institute on Aging (IoA) at the University of Florida (UF) seeks funding to support its predoctoral research-training program in aging of physical, cognitive and mental health in social contexts. With the co-location and cooperation between UF's health sciences and liberal arts campuses, as evinced by the strong levels of collaboration documented in this proposal, located close to urban and rural environments, UF is uniquely positioned to offer training in the psychosocial elements of health and disease (e.g., sensorimotor antecedents of cognitive decline in aging), in a socially diverse State. The training program is led by a Training Director with over seven years of experience with a particular model that includes multidisciplinary research training coupled with strong disciplinary education. UF has recently reinvigorated its investment in aging research, although its institutional commitment to aging (as evidenced by the establishment of its first Center on aging) is over 50 years old. In the past two years alone, 14 new aging faculty (to date) have been hired at UF. At present, over 40 faculty have identified themselves as "Core Training Faculty" in the IoA, representing the disciplines of psychology, sociology, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, medicine, geography, audiology, linguistics, interior design, and others. This group is committed to mentoring students in a program that includes simultaneous admission to a disciplinary department (for the Ph.D.) and to the IoA Predoctoral Research Training program. The core components of the IoA training program include: (1) assignment of each student of multi-disciplinary mentoring team, literally on their first day of arrival, including a primary mentor from the performance model, in which students begin each academic year with their mentoring team to set career plan-relevant quantifiable goals in the domains of research, education, and service. Mentoring team meetings throughout the year to assess and support goal progress; (3) a weekly campus-wide colloquium series featuring atop national speakers, local researchers in aging, and professional development sessions; and (4) required supplemental coursework in Aging and Statistics/Methodology. In addition, our mentoring team approach allows us to actively engage energetic newer faculty in primary mentoting roles, while supplementing and complementing them with seasoned, productive senior investigators. Our students are therefore poised not only for research in traditional departments, but also in clinical research facilities, and multidisciplinary gerontology environments.